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KENTUCKY

WKU president pledges to improve life in state

Investigation into athletics won't be secret

By TIM ROBERTS
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Western Kentucky University's new president pledged yesterday to work for economic development and to improve life for Kentuckians as he takes the helm of the university.

And in response to questions, Thomas C. Meredith promised a thorough investigation of allegations by eight former basketball players that they received improper benefits from coaches and boosters.

That investigation will not be veiled in secrecy, he said at the Bowling Green campus as Gov. Wallace Wilkinson and departing president Kern Alexander looked on.

"Governor, I pledge to you the full support of this administration toward the goal of expanded economic development for this section of the state, Western Kentucky, but I don't want to stop there.

"I'm pledging to you this institution's absolute commitment to help this great state and the people in this state to be better," said Meredith, a 46-year-old Owensboro native.

Meredith came to Western from the University of Mississippi, where he was vice chancellor for executive affairs. He was chosen Aug. 5 from among four finalists, who included former Gov. Martha Layne Collins.

Joe Iracane, the chairman of WKU's board of regents, said Meredith will officially take over about Sept. 1 but will be the one making the decisions in the president's office between now and then.

Meredith said he plans to move into the president's home around Labor Day.

Iracane said Meredith's proposed four-year contract calls for an annual salary of \$85,918.

Alexander, now a distinguished professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, was on

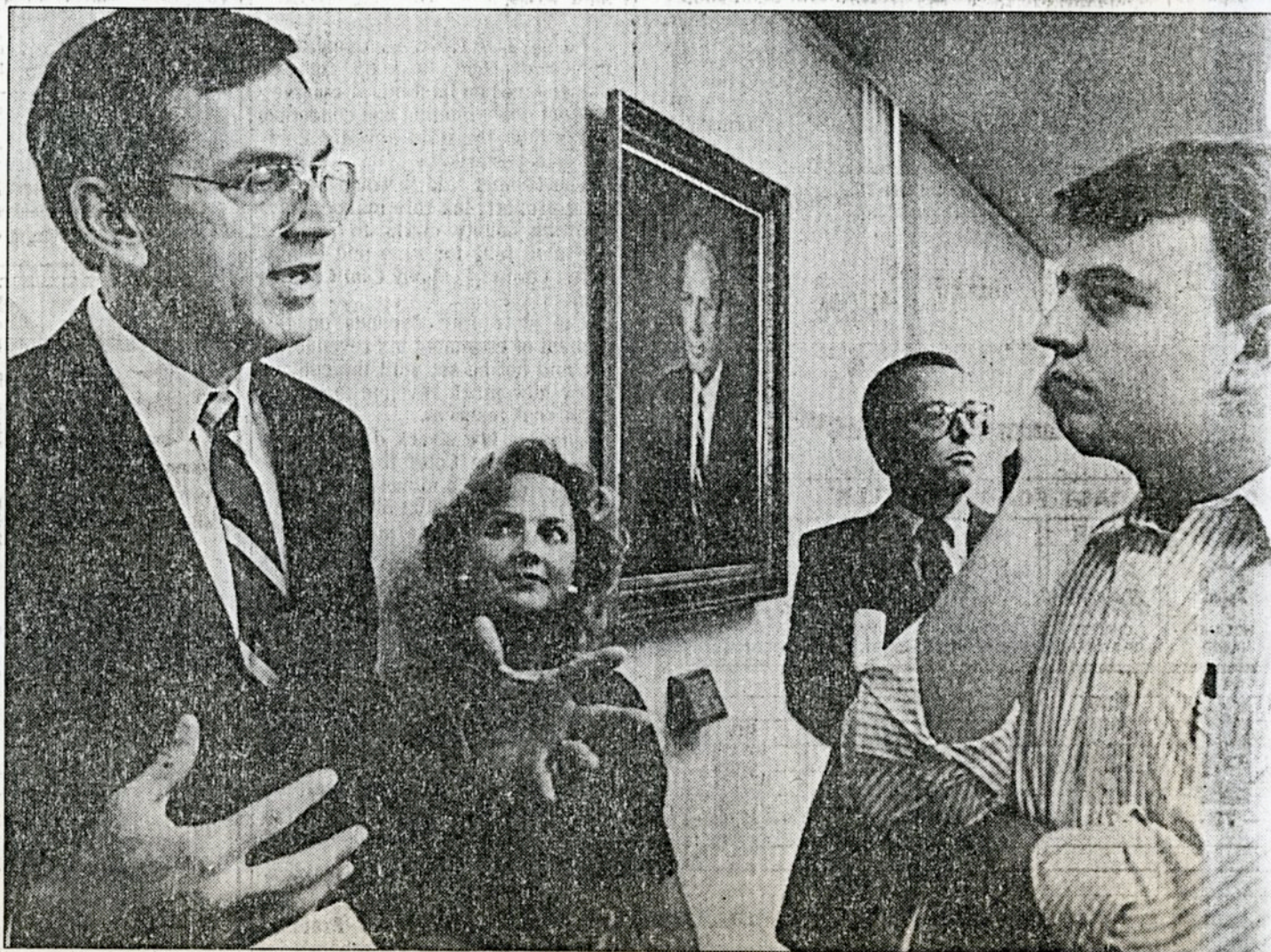


PHOTO BY DAVE MELEAR

Western Kentucky University's new president, Thomas C. Meredith, talked with Eric Woehler, a student from Paducah, on campus yesterday. Meredith is leaving the University of Mississippi, where he was vice chancellor for executive affairs.

campus yesterday to meet with Meredith.

In farewell remarks, Alexander, who was president for 2 1/2 years, said Wilkinson's efforts so far in education "tell us you're going to pursue a policy of judicious use of public resources, which will advance education and will advance Western in particular."

He praised Iracane for his "efforts to raise Western to a level of prominence in higher education which had not before been contemplated for this institution."

In greeting Meredith, Wilkinson said, "I

am here today to pledge to this university, to the faculty, students and regents of Western Kentucky University, my full and complete support to the new administration."

Iracane said the occasion marked "not a change of direction but a transition" from one president to another.

Under a new state law, Wilkinson has the opportunity to appoint or reappoint four of Western's 10 regents, which he had said he would not do while the presidential search was in progress.

Yesterday the governor said he will make those four appointments "certainly within the next 30 days and perhaps sooner." He would not give any clues to his choices.

Iracane, who met with the governor yesterday morning and is one of the four, would not comment on the appointments.

Asked if he was uneasy about the uncertainty of the composition of the board of

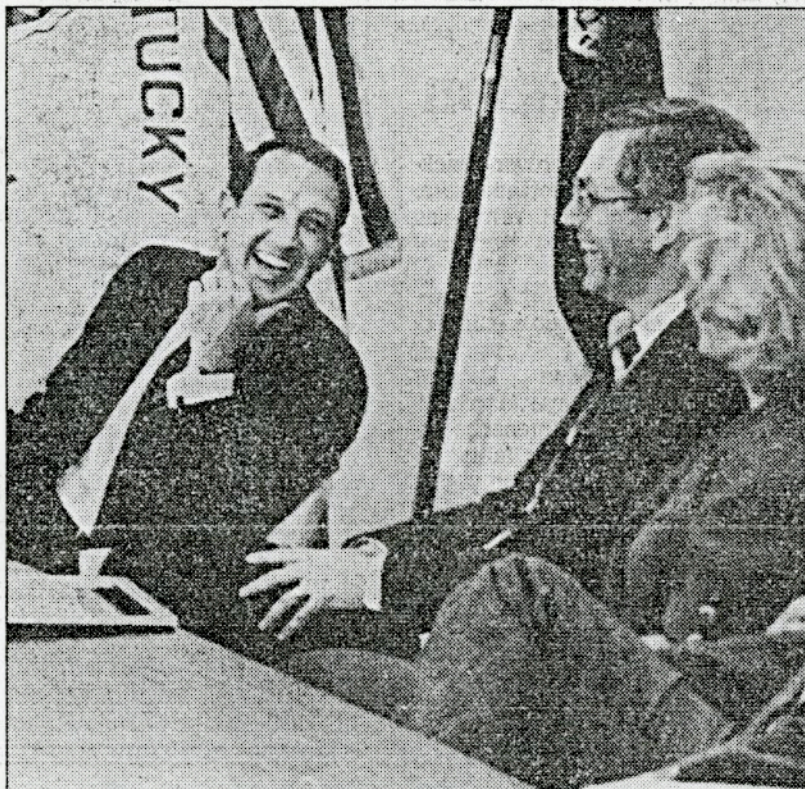


PHOTO BY DAVID MELEAR

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, left, laughed with WKU's incoming president, Thomas C. Meredith, at a press conference yesterday.

WKU chief pledges to improve state

Continued from Page B 1

regents that appointed him, Meredith said he had "the utmost confidence" that Wilkinson will appoint board members with the best interest of Western at heart.

Although not officially in the job, Meredith already has taken an aggressive stance regarding eight former basketball players' allegations, published in *The Courier-Journal*, that they received improper benefits — including \$5 loans, payments of more than \$100, free transportation home and new suits — between 1981 and 1986.

"I want to be on the offensive here, and try to reach a conclusion about this, and clear our name if possible, or, if it can't be cleared, then to take some action that will help to clear it," he said yesterday.

Meredith said he met yesterday morning with a committee he appointed over the weekend to look into the matter.

The committee's final report probably will be made public, he said, adding that he will inform the NCAA of "what we're doing in this regard." The NCAA has not contacted him about the allegations, but Western will cooperate with any investigations, he said.

Meredith also must tackle controversy left from Alexander's proposals to install faculty editors and make other changes in the student newspaper and yearbook.

Many people on and off campus labeled the changes censorship, something that Alexander denied.

After his proposals created a storm of controversy, Alexander had them reviewed by an outside expert and a committee.

Meredith said he probably will rule on the committee's recommendation next month.

"We will not have censorship of the paper or a faculty editor or whatever the terminology is," he said yesterday.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1988

DAILY NEWS, BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

Leaders at WKU

KERN ALEXANDER (left) former Western Kentucky University president, addresses Gov. Wallace Wilkinson and WKU President Thomas Meredith today at Wetherby Administration Building during Meredith's first press conference as president.

New WKU chief welcomed

Governor to turn his attention to naming regents

By **TRACY L. McQUEEN**
Daily News Staff Writer

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson said today he will turn his attention to appointments to Western Kentucky University's Board of Regents now that a new university president has been named.

The terms of four regents are uncertain, because a law passed by the General Assembly this year limits board members' terms to four years instead of six.

Board members Iracane, Danny Butler, John Palmore and Patsy Judd are all serving in their fifth years.

Wilkinson said during a news conference this morning at Western that he would fill those positions in the next month, but declined to say if any of the current board members would be reappointed.

Wilkinson welcomed Western's incoming president, Thomas Meredith, back to Kentucky during the news conference and pledged his support for the university.

"I believe in Western Kentucky University," Wilkinson said. "I believe in what you're trying to do here, and I will help you accomplish those goals any way that I can."

"The fire is lit, and we're going 100 percent," said Joe Iracane, chairman of the Board of Regents.

Meredith, an Owensboro native, and outgoing president Kern Alexander exchanged praise during the news conference.

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WKU chief

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Page 1

Meredith, vice chancellor for executive affairs at University of Mississippi, commended Alexander for his accomplishments at Western.

"I'm confident that Western is better because Kern Alexander was here," Meredith said. "I came here because of Western Kentucky University ... and the more I find out, the more excited I get."

Iracane said Meredith would further the goals of Alexander and the Board of Regents, and not change the direction of Western.

"Today is going to be the beginning of our transition, not a change in direction, a transition," Iracane said.

Alexander expressed confidence in Meredith and offered his support.

"If I can do anything in the future to help you, to assist you, please don't hesitate to call," Alexander said.

Alexander is leaving Western to accept a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech.

Columbus, Mississippi

U.M. Vice Chancellor New WKU Prexy

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Owensboro native Thomas C. Meredith has been named president of Western Kentucky University after former Gov. Martha Layne Collins withdrew her candidacy.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity," said Meredith, a vice chancellor at the University of Mississippi. "I hope my experience in higher education both on an institutional campus and in a statewide role played a part in that."

Meredith, who received a master's degree from Western, was the favorite among faculty members, some teachers at the school said.

— By The Associated Press

Meredith takes office in Kentucky

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP) — Thomas C. Meredith pledged to work for economic development in the state as he was officially introduced to the campus community as the new Western Kentucky University president.

"This institution has the ability to enhance the kinds of things economically that are going on in the state now," he said Tuesday. "And it certainly has the ability and desire to draw new economic activity to the state."

Gov. Wallace Wilkinson was among those dignitaries on hand to welcome Meredith, WKU's eighth president, and he pledged his "full and complete support for the new administration of Western."

Meredith, an Owensboro native and vice chancellor for executive affairs at the University of Mississippi, commended outgoing president Kern Alexander for his accomplishments at Western.

"I'm confident that Western is better because Kern Alexander was here," Meredith said. "I came here because of Western Kentucky University ... and the more I find out, the more excited I get."

Alexander, who is leaving Western for a distinguished professorship at Virginia Tech, expressed confidence in Meredith and offered his support.

"If I can do anything in the future to help you, to assist you, please don't hesitate to call," Alexander said.

Iracane said Meredith will officially take over about Sept.

New president at Western has strong Ky. ties

Associated Press

OWENSBORO — Thomas Meredith, the incoming president of Western Kentucky University, has strong administrative experience and a knack for public relations, according to those who've followed his career.

"He's very much a realist in terms of what's possible in academics," said Mike Harreld, chairman of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education.

The 46-year-old comes to Western from the University of Mississippi, where he is a vice chancellor, but Meredith has deep roots in Kentucky.

He was born and reared in Owensboro, where he attended Kentucky Wesleyan College on a basketball scholarship.

An only child, Meredith's parents worked for Owensboro Municipal Utilities. His father, Thomas Logan Meredith, died while he was in college.

At least four generations of Meredith's family lived in the Owensboro area, said his mother, Charlotte Meredith.

Meredith taught social studies at Owensboro High School and worked on a master's degree at Western after graduating from college in 1963.

Owensboro businessman Joe Iracane, who is chairman of the board of regents at Western, taught at Owens-



Thomas
Meredith

boro High School at the same time as Meredith.

In 1971, the Owensboro native earned a doctorate in education from the University of

Oxford and took a job as an administrator in the Jeffersonville, Ind., public school system.

He returned to Mississippi to work for the board that governs the state's universities in 1974, overseeing academic programs and planning.

Ten years later he joined Ole Miss as an assistant to the chancellor, who is the university's top administrator, and became vice chancellor for executive affairs in March 1987.

Earlier last year he was a finalist for the job of executive director of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education.

"He has had extensive experience in the day-to-day operation of the University of Mississippi. He has very good ideas. He comes highly recommended," said regent Hughlyne Wilson of Prospect.

Hired—

Continued from B-1

state laws, Shaffer explained.

In a related matter, the supervisors also appointed P. Joseph Lehman Inc. as the township's consulting engineer.

In other business Thursday, the supervisors:

■ Worked out a cost-sharing plan for PennDOT outlining how the local and state governments might split the \$18,000 charge to relocate water lines when two bridges are replaced on the road between Coburn and Millheim. Under the supervisors' plan, Penn Township would pay 1 percent of the water line relocation bill; PennDOT would pay 99 percent. Shaffer said the plan now goes to state Transportation Secretary Howard Yarusalim for his review.

■ Agreed to order and install a road sign at the previously unmarked Route 45 end of Paradise Road. Paradise Road residents have agreed to purchase the sign, Shaffer said.

■ Approved a \$25 highway occupancy permit fee to be charged mo anyone wishing to connect a driveway to a township road.

Licenses approved by State College

The following people, businesses or organizations have been issued a license by the Borough of State College for canvassing, soliciting, door-to-door selling or operating a temporary business in the borough:

— Joseph Caputo, 1441 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, Calif., temporary retail business license valid until Sunday, for A & A Oriental Rugs Inc., to sell Oriental rugs.

— Laura Ann Robinson/Calexico, 3515 Plaza Drive, State College, foot peddler license valid until Aug. 17; will be selling shaved ice.

— Richard J. Shaten of Richard's Hot Dogs, Pine Grove Mills; foot peddler license valid until March 7, 1989; will be selling hot and cold sandwiches, beverages, snacks and novelties.

— Mark McWhirter, Paul H. Fitting, John A. Robbins, David Whitmarsh, Dorothy Verbeck, Kathryn Fitting, MaryAnn Moran, Maria Mooney, and Anthony Bellotti, cavasser/solicitor licenses, valid through today; will be selling water treatment products through door-to-door sales and phone soliciting, for Clear Solutions, 1506 W. College Ave., State College.

Fraternity files for non-profit status

The Phi Sigma Delta Education Foundation Fraternity has filed to obtain a certificate of incorporation for a domestic non-profit corporation.

The articles of incorporation have been filed with the Department of State of Pennsylvania.

The new name will be the Phi Sigma Delta Sigma Fraternity, said Milton Bernstein, the fraternity's attorney in Harrisburg.

This fall the fraternity's 36 members will move into their new home at 240 E. Prospect Ave., said Bernstein, a member of the fraternity's alumni association and a 1952 Penn State graduate.

Figures released

State Farm Insurance had 15,540 auto insurance customers in Centre County as of December 1987, said Jim O'Brian, director of management planning.

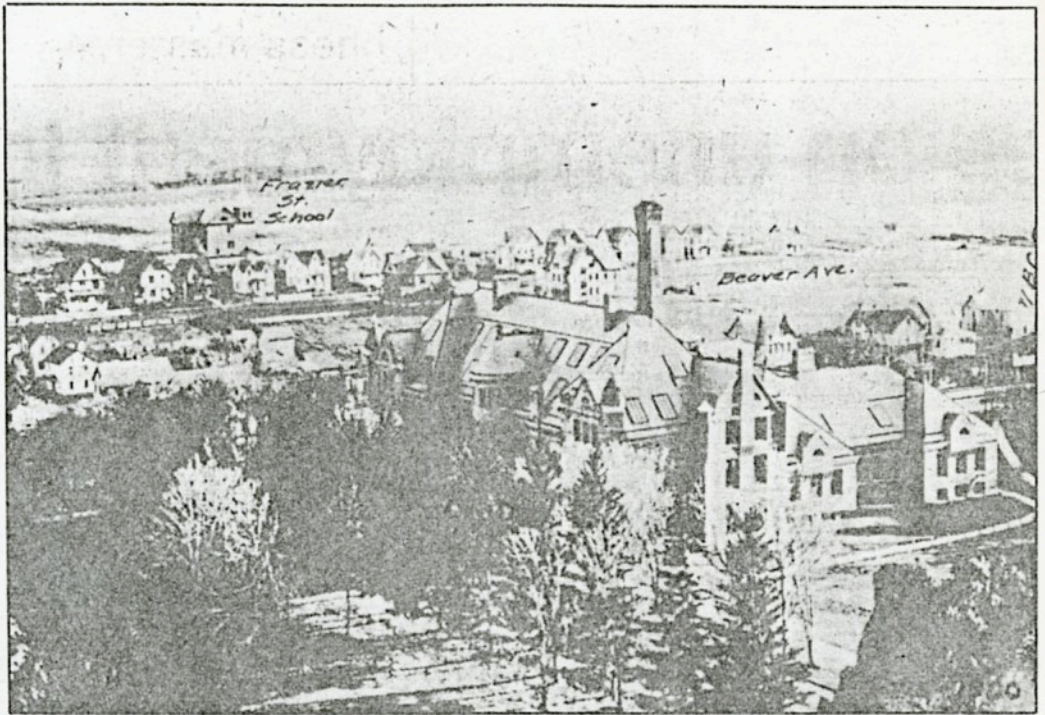
County statistics are done every six months, but the figures for June were not available, he said.

Pesticides from crash did not hurt stream

The Associated Press

PLEASANTVILLE — The state Fish Commission said yesterday a stream in Bedford County was not

Memories



STATE COLLEGE: This photo was taken around the turn of the century from the Old Main Tower overlooking the campus and downtown State College. Shown are the original engineering buildings and the Mall. Notice in the background are the Fraser Street School and the beginnings of College and Beaver avenues.

POLICE REPORT

Brother stabbed in fight over fan

Rockview state police have charged Merrill Jackson Gardner, 25, of Howard RD 1, with aggravated assault, simple assault, and recklessly endangering a person.

Gardner is accused of stabbing his brother, Daniel, in the chest and the face with a knife in a fight over a fan, police said.

Gardner was arraigned before District Justice Robert Shoff. Gardner is being held in Centre County Prison in lieu of \$10,000 bond.

Daniel Gardner was taken to Lock Haven Hospital, where he was in serious but stable condition yesterday.

Burglary, theft, charged

Ferguson Township police charged Patrick Joseph Glynn, 18, of 640 Galen Drive, State College, with burglary and theft yesterday.

Police have accused Glynn of climbing through an unlocked window at a body shop at Joel Confer's Toyota-BMW, 1101 N. Atherton St., State College, and taking a 1986 BMW valued at \$22,000.

The car was located on the Penn State campus, where it had apparently struck a tree, police said.

Glynn was arraigned yesterday before District Justice Robert May. He was released from Centre County Prison on \$5,000 bond.

Car recovered

Ferguson Township police yesterday recovered a 1983 BMW, which had been taken from Joel Confer's Toyota-BMW, 1101 N. Atherton, Thursday at 9:59 p.m., police said. Police are investigating the incident.

Sign taken

A stop sign, owned by State College Borough, was taken from the McAllister Alley and Calder

Way yesterday, between 1 and 7 a.m., State College police said.

Bolt cutters taken

A pair of bolt cutters valued at \$25, owned by Phillip Hawk of 158 E. College Ave., State College, was taken from a construction site overnight Wednesday, State College police said.

Bike taken

A 10-speed men's bike, owned by Ron Atkin of 124 S. Patterson St., State College, was taken from that address between Tuesday and Thursday, State College police said yesterday. The bike, valued at \$400, was silver, with a rear rack and straight handlebars, police said.

Wallet taken

A wallet owned by Kathryn Crossley of State College, was taken from 233 E. Beaver Ave., State College, yesterday at 5 a.m., State College police said.

University president vows to raise funds

By JOHN STRAUSS
The Associated Press

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Owensboro native Thomas C. Meredith, the new president of Western Kentucky University, pledged yesterday to help find more money for the school and expand enrollment while maintaining educational excellence.

Meredith beat out a Pennsylvania man for the position.

"Western has not been in the fund-raising mode on a major scale," Meredith said. "There's some exploration that must take place first to determine the capability of the alumni and friends of Western to support us."

The University of Mississippi vice chancellor, who received a master's degree in education from Western, was selected by the school's board of regents from among four finalists to replace Kern Alexander.

The candidates included former Gov. Martha Layne Collins, who withdrew her name from consideration.

The two other finalists were Thomas A. Bond, president of Clarion University in Pennsylvania and H. George Frederickson, a distin-

guished professor at the University of Kansas. Collins' performance during public interviews on campus Thursday was judged the poorest of the four candidates by some faculty members. Some questioned whether her academic background, a bachelor's degree in home economics, qualified her to be president of the university.

"I don't take anything away from Mrs. Collins, but a university is not like a corporation," said James Heldman, an English professor who is chairman of the school's academic council. "It is not like state government. You have to know a good bit about how a university works internally in order to lead that kind of institution."

Collins, who earlier said her numerous political and international contacts could help the school, issued a statement congratulating Meredith and maintaining that she was qualified.

"But there are obviously those who feel that anyone from outside the academic community cannot be an effective president, and I recognize their concerns," she said. "I withdrew my name because I care about Western Kentucky University. I did not want any division

to result from my candidacy that could damage the board's effectiveness in the future."

Eric Swain, a senior from Louisville who was on campus for the summer session, said he was pleased with the regents' choice.

"I think it also shows that Western likes to bring back former students for expanded roles such as president," Swain said, noting that Alexander also did his master's degree work at the school.

Scott Whitehouse, the student regent, said he planned to meet with Meredith as soon as possible to discuss campus issues.

"Dr. Meredith was, in my eyes, the most student-oriented president from the very beginning," he said.

Press Conference
Western Kentucky University
10:30 a.m. August 16, 1988

Mr. Iracane	Introductory Remarks and Introduction of President Alexander
President Alexander	Remarks
Mr. Iracane	Introduction of President Meredith
President Meredith	Remarks
Mr. Iracane	Presentation of Honorary Alumnus to Mrs. Meredith, Video Tape and Introduction of Governor Wilkinson
Governor Wilkinson	Remarks

August 3, 1988

DR. H. GEORGE FREDERICKSON

Hosts: Mr. A. Franklin Berry, University Attorney
Mr. Jeff Key, Glendale, KY, Student
Miss Linda Vergutz, Louisville, KY, Student

Family Host:

8:15 Holidome

- 8:30 - 9:15 - Board of Regents
Wetherby Admin. Bldg. - President's Office
- 9:30 - 10:30 - Faculty & Staff
Garrett Conference Center - RM 103
- 10:30 - 11:00 - Vice Presidents & College Deans
Garrett Conference Center - Memorial Room
- 11:00 - 11:30 - Students - GCC - RM 103
- 11:30 - 11:45 - Media - Memorial Room
- 12:00 - 1:15 - Luncheon - Downing University Center
- RM 226
- Tour President's Home - 1700 Chestnut Street

Ask Mr. Johnson

DR. THOMAS A. BOND

Hosts: Mr. Howard Bailey, Dean, Student Life
Mr. Tim Harper, Cave City, KY, Student

Family Host: Mrs. Freida Eggleton, Registrar

- 1:30 - 2:15 - Board of Regents
Wetherby Admin. Bldg. - President's Office
- 2:30 - 3:30 - Faculty & Staff
Garrett Conference Center - RM 103
- 3:30 - 4:00 - Vice Presidents & College Deans
Garrett Conference Center - Memorial Room
- 4:00 - 4:30 - Students - RM 103
- 4:30 - 4:45 - Media - Memorial Room
- 5:15 - 6:30 - Dinner - Downing University Center - RM 226
- Tour President's Home - 1700 Chestnut Street

August 4, 1988

DR. THOMAS C. MEREDITH

*Hosts: Dr. Paul B. Cook, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Mr. Chris Gaddis, Owensboro, KY, Student
Miss Laura Stockton, Morganfield, KY, Student*

Family Host: Mrs. Marleen Murphy, Assistant Registrar

- 8:30 - 9:15 - Board of Regents
Wetherby Admin. Bldg. - President's Office
- 9:30 - 10:30 - Faculty & Staff
Garrett Conference Center - RM 103
- 10:30 - 11:00 - Vice Presidents & College Deans
Garrett Conference Center - Memorial Room
- 11:00 - 11:30 - Students - GCC - RM 103
- 11:30 - 11:45 - Media - Memorial Room
- 12:00 - 1:15 - Luncheon - Downing University Center
- RM 226
- Tour President's Home - 1700 Chestnut Street

GOVERNOR MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS

*Hosts: Mr. Harry K. Largen, Vice President for Business Affairs
Mr. Adrian Smoot, Frankfort, KY, Student
Miss Linda Vergutz, Louisville, KY, Student*

Family Host: Dr. Cecile Garmon

- 1:30 - 2:15 - Board of Regents
Wetherby Admin. Bldg. - President's Office
- 2:30 - 3:30 - Faculty & Staff
Garrett Conference Center - RM 103
- 3:30 - 4:00 - Vice Presidents & College Deans
Garrett Conference Center - Memorial Room
- 4:00 - 4:30 - Students - RM 103
- 4:30 - 4:45 - Media - Memorial Room
- 5:15 - 6:30 - Dinner - Downing University Center - RM 226
- Tour President's Home - 1700 Chestnut Street



PHOTO BY BOB SKIPPER

Former Gov. Martha Layne Collins talked with Dr. Eugene Evans, faculty regent at Western Kentucky University, before addressing faculty members yesterday.

WKU faculty see Collins' inexperience as 'handicap'

By TIM ROBERTS
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Appointing a former governor as president of Western Kentucky University "would speak volumes about Western's attitudes and its approach to the future," former Gov. Martha Layne Collins told more than 150 faculty members yesterday.

Her appointment, she said, would be "a historic moment" for her as a woman and it would indicate that WKU "means business when it talks about the involvement of academics, government and the private sector all working together."

Collins, one of the four finalists for the

presidency of WKU, was joined on campus yesterday by another candidate, Thomas Meredith, vice chancellor of the University of Mississippi.

But much of the attention was focused on Collins because of her position as a candidate who does not have the usual credentials, including a doctorate and experience in scholarly research. Response to Collins' appearance before the faculty was negative.

"There would be so much homework left to do," said sociology professor Joan Krenzin of Collins' lack of academic credentials. The former governor, who has a bachelor's

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Faculty see Collins' inexperience as 'handicap'

Continued from Page One

degree in home economics, would be "starting from scratch," Krenzin said, adding, "On-the-job training is something we don't like to do at the highest level."

Alan B. Anderson, head of the department of philosophy and religion, said the idea of including Collins was interesting, but that "her lack of experience in the university setting would be too much of a handicap to enable us to make use of her strengths."

Collins responded to the concern about her credentials by saying she would employ "a team effort" and would listen to the faculty.

In applying for the position, she said, "I wasn't just looking for another job."

"The people who are saying I can't be a college president are the same people who said I couldn't be governor, and I did it," she said. "I just have to work harder."

She appeared on campus with her husband, Bill, and said they would move to Bowling Green if the board of regents selects her.

Joe Iracane, chairman of the board, said he expects the president to be named this morning.

Collins would not commit herself to a particular length of time for

her stay in Bowling Green, but said the regents want the new president to sign a four-year contract.

Collins said she would be "an active, aggressive, accessible president" with a presence on campus and off. Because she endorsed Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis early in the campaign, there has been speculation that she would be offered a position in his administration if he is elected.

She would not answer what she called a "what-if question," and said she was not particularly interested in moving to Washington.

Asked if Gov. Wallace Wilkinson, with whom she met last week, was involved in the selection process, she said politics had been kept out of it.

She said she would not interfere with the student press, and would use her contacts to help increase funding for WKU.

Meredith said in his talks to faculty, students and the press that he would be "a highly visible president on and off campus, whose style is 'aggressive and high energy.'" He pledged to "keep everything on top of the table. There will be no hidden agendas."

Although he said he would delegate various duties, he said, "I like to run the ship."

He said a sports program is "crucial" in getting people excited about a university. But he said athletics can't "dominate the academic side."

"I want to be president of Western Kentucky University. I'm not just going through the process."

Like the two candidates who appeared Wednesday — Thomas Bond, president of Clarion (Pa.) State College, and H. George Frederickson, a distinguished professor at the University of Kansas — Meredith was careful in commenting on Collins' candidacy.

"It's certainly raised the visibility of the contest," he said. "She's a very capable lady and certainly can undertake any responsibility and do it well. I'm sure of that."

Meredith said he would not interfere with the student press and does not approve of faculty editors.

He said he would pursue increased enrollment as long as it did not lower educational quality.

English professor James Heldman said after reviewing Meredith's resume that he feared that he might be "an administrative dilettante," with little understanding of professors. But after hearing him he changed his mind, saying he sounded "knowledgeable, practical, open, very articulate, flexible and experienced."



(Staff Photos by Kevin Eans)

WKU candidates

THOMAS MEREDITH (above) speaks with Western Kentucky University faculty and staff this morning at Garrett Conference Center. Meredith, one of four finalists for the WKU presidency, is vice chancellor at University of Mississippi. Thomas Bond (below) met Wednesday with students at the conference center. Bond is president of Clarion (Pa.) University. Former Gov. Martha Layne Collins was scheduled for interviews this afternoon. H. George Frederickson, distinguished professor at University of Kansas, interviewed Wednesday morning.



Meredith wins points at Western

By ED SEVERS
Daily News Staff Writer

The third of four finalists to visit campus in the search for a president for Western Kentucky University this morning received a warm welcome from faculty, staff and department heads.

A crowd of several dozen gave Thomas C. Meredith, 46, vice chancellor at the University of Mississippi, two lengthy ovations during an hour-long meeting in which he outlined his basic educational and administrative philosophies and answered questions.

"Our whole reason is to prepare young people to become contributing members of society," Meredith said, reading from a prepared statement.

And the most important component of that preparation is classroom teaching, he said.

Continued Back Page
Column 3, This Section

Meredith

"Classroom teaching ... is the bread and butter of any institution ... especially this one," Meredith said.

Meredith also said he thinks is especially qualified for the job because of his ties to Kentucky.

He is a native of Owensboro, where he graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College, and he received a master's degree from Western.

Meredith said he knows members of the staff of the state Council on Higher Education, as well as state legislators and members of the administration of Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

"I think I know Kentucky ..." he said.

During a question-and-answer session, Meredith said he thinks athletics are crucial to a university as a "rallying point" but must take a back seat to academics.

Meredith also said he enjoys good relations with the student newspaper at the University of Mississippi but was not asked specifically whether he thinks school administrators should have censorship power over student newspapers.

That question was expected to come up later, however, during meetings with students and a news conference.

Both candidates interviewed Wednesday said they feel universities should hold no censorship power over student newspapers.

"I certainly don't ... support censorship," said Thomas Bond, 50, president of Clarion (Pa.) University.

"They should be ... encouraged to write as they see fit and publish as they see fit," said H. George Frederickson, 54, distinguished professor at the University of Kansas.

Each also said he maintains that view even though he has taken

some shots from student newspapers.

"As long as it's not libelous or scandalous, I try to roll with the punches," Bond said.

"University presidents in public universities have to learn to roll with the punches," Frederickson said.

The candidates were asked their views on student newspapers in the wake of proposals last fall by outgoing school President Kern Alexander that were interpreted as a means by which the school could exercise censorship power over the papers.

The outcry that followed led to the appointment earlier this year of a five-member board of independent journalists to study proposed changes and make recommendations of its own.

That board has yet to release its report.

Frederickson made his comments in meetings with regents, faculty, students and others Wednesday morning. Bond went through a similar schedule of meetings Wednesday afternoon.

Bond said one of the greatest strengths he would bring to Western is ability to raise money.

He said the foundation fund at Clarion has increased from about \$250,000 to more than \$5 million under his leadership.

"I'm a proven fund raiser," he said.

Bond also said he is willing to leave Clarion University, where he has served as president since 1980, because he feels he is near "a point of ineffectiveness."

"I'm at that point where I've moved Clarion about as far as I can," he said, and Western, which has a student enrollment of more

Courier Journal 8-4-88

Two candidates for WKU presidency share their views with campus

By TIM ROBERTS
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Two of the four finalists for president of Western Kentucky University toured the campus yesterday and spoke to faculty, administrators, students, and, privately, to the regents.

The two, H. George Frederickson, a distinguished professor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, and Thomas Bond, president of Clarion State University in Clarion, Pa., spoke about decision-making, priorities in funding and enrollment.

Neither candidate would directly address the Collins factor.

Former Gov. Martha Layne Collins and



Thomas Meredith, vice chancellor of the University of Mississippi, are the other two finalists and are to visit today, with the university naming the new president tomorrow.



THE FINAL FOUR:
From left, U of Kansas professor H. George Frederickson, Clarion State President Thomas Bond, former Gov. Martha Layne Collins, and U of Mississippi Vice Chancellor Thomas Meredith

Collins is the only one of the four who doesn't have a doctorate.

Frederickson and Bond did comment indirectly on Collins' candidacy.

Asked about the qualifications university

traditionally have had presidents who could be "academic leaders." Choosing an academic vs. a "corporate type" is the choice of the board of regents, who must set the direction of the university, he said.

presidents should have, Frederickson said they should understand the scholarly life. And, while they must be able to work with legislators, they should not be perceived as politicians, he said.

A president, he said, should "be in politics but not of politics."

Bond said that universities

Faculty members were also evaluating the scholarly achievements of Bond and Frederickson.

Paul Campbell, vice chairman of the Faculty Senate and a professor of physics and astronomy, said Bond hadn't done much "scholarly research" recently while Frederickson has.

Both, however, have had experience as university presidents, and Bond has worked his way up the ladder, Campbell said after a faculty gathering where the candidates were discussed.

In his appearances, Frederickson said he

See TWO
PAGE 3, col. 5, this section

Two candidates visit WKU

Continued from Page B 1

would be a visible president. "You can't be a faceless, nameless character," he said.

He advocated building consensus among faculty, administrators and other constituents before embarking on new endeavors. A president, he said, should "nurture a sense of collective will."

He talked of repositioning WKU, which he said is poised "where it can improve itself significantly."

Bond said he would take "an active role as academic leader of the university" and would be "visible in a very positive way."

"The first priority of the university is academics and teaching the kids," he said.

WKU already has a good reputation, he said, adding he would like to push the university "from good to great."

Faculty members, students and reporters all asked about the candidates' feelings about the press.

Using unequivocal language, Frederickson said he would not interfere or attempt to censor the student press, something that departing President Kern Alexander was accused of doing but denied.

Despite his occasional differences with reporters over the years, Frederickson said, "I think any university president who attempts in any way to interfere in the student newspaper process is mistaken."

Bond said, "I certainly don't support censorship, although (the student newspaper) has a responsibility to report accurately and fairly."

Increased enrollment, a priority

at WKU the past few years, must be accompanied by careful planning, Frederickson said.

"A steady trickle is better than a thunderstorm," he said.

"Growth for the sake of growth is trouble," said Bond, who advocated a five-year plan that would consider the effects of enrollment increases on quality.

Frederickson and Bond both said athletic programs should not take away resources needed by academic programs.

"There are ways of making a strong (athletic) program without taking money from academics," Bond said.

Frederickson said sports teams can create a "bonding" with people outside the university that is important, but a university should not try "to conquer the world every year in every sport."

The candidates' visits come between the summer and fall semesters at WKU, a time when many professors and students are away.

But more than 100 faculty members attended the candidate sessions, although only about six students attended.

Campbell was encouraged by the turnout and by the regents' presence at the faculty gatherings, where they heard the comments of professors.

The contest is still open, even with Collins in it, Campbell said.

Speaking of the faculty gathering today, he said, "What is said tomorrow in this room will go a long way in determining who the next president of Western will be."

President Collins?

REGENTS of Western Kentucky University are completing, for the third time in a decade, a presidential search. Their choice will be the fifth person — counting two interim presidents — to direct the Bowling Green-based university since Dero Downing stepped down in January 1979.

This becomes a factor because former Gov. Martha Layne Collins is one of four finalists for the position. She has no background in higher education but is an executive of proven ability with skills easily transferable to higher education. The other finalists have demonstrated leadership on the university level, otherwise they would not be on the regents' "short" list. Any of the three would likely be an acceptable choice.

But none would bring the fundraising potential, visibility and political prestige to the job that Mrs. Collins would. In Kentucky's educational climate, all three factors are as important as educational vision, which, in a pinch, can be supplied

by provosts and deans. And, don't forget, Mrs. Collins showed deep concern for education, working with legislators to enact important school reforms during her term.

The downside, though, can be found in words uttered by WKU's departing president, Kern Alexander, on his appointment in 1985. He would like to stay at his "family's university," Western, "until I'm about 85." He was 48 when he submitted his resignation with more than 21 months remaining on a four-year contract.

Should Michael Dukakis be elected president, Mrs. Collins, an early supporter, surely would be near the top of lists of potential appointees to high government posts. She is regarded as a possible candidate for the Senate in 1990. She will be only 54 at the time of the next governor's race in 1991.

Western needs stability at the top. If its regents offer the presidency to Mrs. Collins, they should require a quid pro quo — a promise to fulfill the multi-year contract that goes with the offer.

Campus visits begin

By ED SEVERS

Daily News Staff Writer

H. George Frederickson, the first of four finalists to visit the campus in Western Kentucky University's search for a new president, thinks the school should be careful not to overemphasize sports.

He said Western could maintain quality while expanding by using a systematic, step-by-step approach toward repositioning the school.

"A university should have a competitive athletics programs but should not attempt to conquer the world every year in every sport," he said.

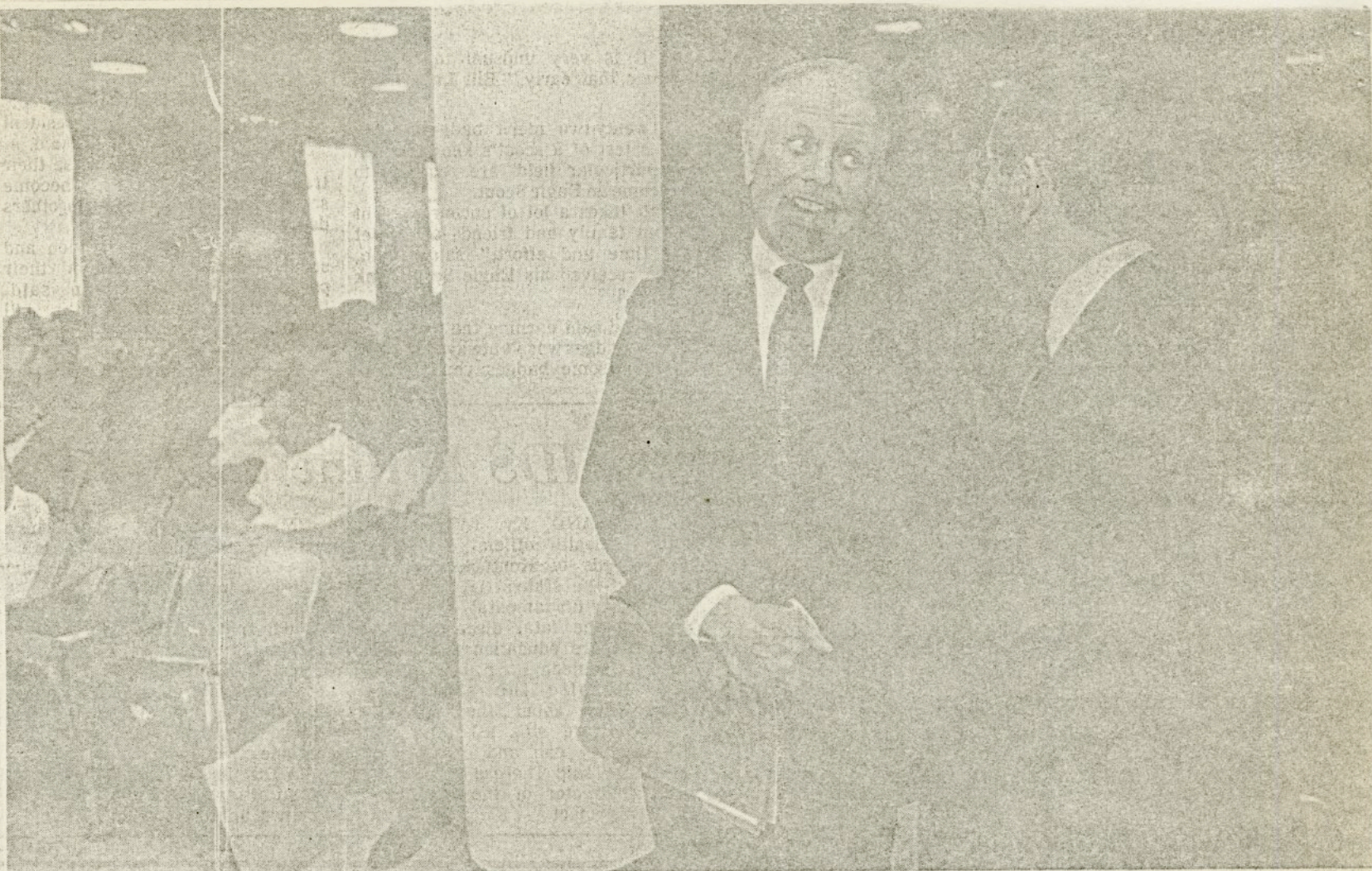
As for dealing with publicity, Frederickson offered a basic philosophy.

"The president is a public servant," he said, and must be prepared to endure public scrutiny of otherwise personal matters.

Frederickson, a distinguished professor of public administration at the University of Kansas, began meeting with regents, teachers, students and others this morning.

Responding to questions from

Continued Back Page
Column 5, This Section



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

Campus visitor

H. GEORGE FREDERICKSON, Western Kentucky University presidential candidate, talks with university attorney A. Franklin Berry

this morning before speaking to faculty members in Garrett Conference Center.

Campus visits

From the
Page 1

more than 50 faculty, staff and department heads gathered at Garrett Conference Center, Frederickson spoke on several topics, including Western's continuing expansion, the importance of sports and dealing with the publicity a school president receives.

The meeting with faculty, staff and department heads followed a closed-door session with the school's board of regents and was to be followed by a meeting with students.

The rest of the finalists are to be on campus for similar interviews and meetings this afternoon and Thursday. Scheduled for this afternoon is

Thomas Bond, president of Clarion (Pa.) University.

Thomas Meredith, vice chancellor at the University of Mississippi, is scheduled for Thursday morning, followed by former Gov. Martha Layne Collins on Thursday afternoon.

Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane says the board will announce its pick from among the four Friday.

The finalists were picked from among 102 candidates for the job, which is being vacated by the resignation of Kern Alexander.

He is leaving to take a job at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University at Blacksburg.

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Daily News

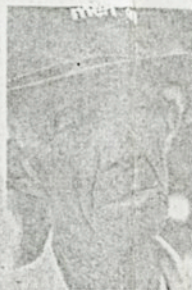
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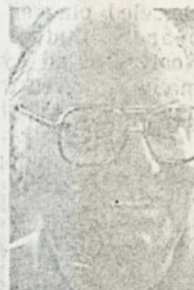
ROBERT KEMBLE



MAX STINETT



TOMMY TEEL



CLIFF EASH



SUSIE MURRAY



WANDA MASSEY



GARY DAILEY



DAVE KIVETT



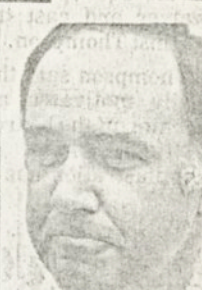
JIM HARNED



SANDRA COKER



DUNCAN MILLIKEN



ED VINCENT

Collins candidacy draws varied public opinion

By ED SEVERS

Daily News Staff Writer

People interviewed this morning by the Daily News on downtown streets had varied opinions on whether former Gov. Martha Layne Collins is qualified to be president of Western Kentucky University, despite her apparent lack of academic credentials or work in higher education.

Mrs. Collins, 51, is one of four finalists for the position.

Seven people endorsed her candidacy, while five

were against it. Three people declined to offer an opinion.

Many who supported Mrs. Collins said her experience in government, including four years as governor and four years as lieutenant governor, is enough to qualify her for the job.

"It's an administrative position, and she has lots of administrative experience," said Dave Kivett of 504 Nutwood Ave. "I don't see any problem ..."

Gary Dailey of Louisville echoed that opinion.

"It's an administrative job, not academic," he

said. "I think she'd do a pretty good job."

"If she's smart enough to be governor, she's smart enough to be president of Western," said Ed Vincent of 1261 Memphis Junction Road.

"I think she'd make a very fine president," said Duncan Milliken of 2310 Nashville Road. "She has a lot of government experience."

"I think she would make a fine person for the job," said Robert Kemble of Smiths Grove.

Wanda Massey of 119 Valleybrook Ave. said Mrs. Collins' years of experience in government are not

necessarily a qualification, but she hopes Mrs. Collins is hired anyway.

"I think it would be nice to have a woman," she said.

"She'd be about as good as any of them," said Tommy Teel of 1311 Adams St.

Not everyone agreed, however, that Mrs. Collins' government leadership would translate well in leading a university.

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Column 3, This Section

Regent

From
Page 1

Palmore said his uneasiness about voting in the presidential election was furthered because his wife Carol was appointed by Mrs. Collins as Kentucky Labor Cabinet secretary to replace John Wells. Mrs. Palmore was reappointed to the position this year by Gov. Wallace Wilkinson.

Regent Danny Butler of Greensburg, whom Mrs. Collins appointed to the board at the same time as Palmore, said he sees no conflict in Mrs. Collins being a finalist for the Western presidency.

"All the board of regents members are there to select the best person for the presidency," he said. "I don't even think that (Mrs. Collins' appointments-reappointments of regents) enters into it."

Butler said that at the time regents were appointed or reappointed, they had no way of know-

ing a presidential vacancy would arise. He said he feels no obligation to give Mrs. Collins any special consideration for the office.

Six other board members, when contacted by the Daily News on Monday, said they saw no conflict. Student Regent Scott Whitehouse of Louisville and Faculty Regent Gene Evans said they feel their fellow board members will vote with their consciences and not let an appointment or reappointment influence their decisions.

Other candidates being considered for the presidency include Thomas Bond, 50, president of Clarion (Pa.) University; H. George Frederickson, 54, distinguished professor of public administration at the University of Kansas; and Thomas C. Meredith, 46, vice chancellor at the University of Mississippi.

Daily News 8-2-88
Viewpoints

WKU's leader must possess four qualities

On Friday, the next president of Western Kentucky University is scheduled to be named from among four finalists. community and at the state level.

Editorial

Whoever is chosen will have the challenging task of leading Western during a growth period that is projected to continue well into the 1990s.

In order for the next president to be as productive as possible, he or she must possess certain qualities. Chief among those are:

- An extensive academic background. Without advanced degrees and/or academic administrative experience, Western's president is unlikely to be taken seriously when speaking on behalf of higher education. The university must have a president whose ideas will be widely respected and whose knowledge of academics is unquestioned.

- Proven leadership ability. If the university is to continue to grow and improve, it must have a person who can rally support from all factions at the university, in the surrounding

- A desire to make a long-term commitment to Western. After the relatively short tenures of Kern Alexander and Don Zacharias, Western needs a president who will remain at the helm for an extended period. Presidential searches and changes in administrations are disruptive and distract from the goal of providing students the best education possible.

- Complete loyalty to Western. The next president must leave no doubt that his or her No. 1 concern is the betterment of Western Kentucky University above all other institutions.

The responsibility given Western's Board of Regents in choosing a new president is a great one. No matter their decision, the regents will be second-guessed.

However, if their choice possesses the qualifications we have outlined, the new president will be able to begin the job with the kind of broad support he or she needs and deserves.

Collins among four finalists for Western presidency

By TIM ROBERTS
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — There are four names left on the list of potential presidents of Western Kentucky University, and former Gov. Martha Layne Collins is among them.

Joe Iracane, chairman of WKU's board of regents, announced yesterday that the regents had narrowed the list, once numbering 102, to four.

The candidates will visit the campus Wednesday and Thursday to speak with regents, faculty members and students, and the new president will be named Friday, Iracane said.

"We feel it's in the best interest of the university to get it done as quickly as we can," he said.

Besides Collins, the other finalists are Thomas Bond, president of Clarion (Pa.) State College; H. George Frederickson, distinguished professor of public administration at the University of Kansas; and Thomas Meredith, a WKU graduate who is vice chancellor for executive affairs at the University of Mississippi.

Much of the discussion on campus has focused on Collins, whose lack of academic experience is a source of concern, although others tout her political experience.

"Each candidate brings a special uniqueness to Western," Iracane said. "It's a matter of matching our needs with what we

See COLLINS

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Collins among 4 finalists for WKU presidency

Continued from Page One

consider their qualifications."

Faculty Senate Chairman Fred Murphy said several faculty members have raised concerns over Collins' lack of university experience.

"But as I understand it," Murphy said, "she has indicated if she were chosen she would be an external president representing Western to our external constituencies. . . . Academic affairs would be left essentially in the hands of the academic administrators, the deans and the departments and the like."

Faculty regent Gene Evans said he, too, understood that Collins would concentrate on matters off campus. "In my mind that's what I would see her as, principally somebody who would represent us externally."

Iracane, however, said the new president would be a "complete

president" in charge of all the affairs of the university.

"You can't compare apples and oranges," Evans said. "She brings something different to the university than the others would. The question is which do we want? At this point I don't know."

Collins named or renamed all eight of the appointed regents, but Iracane said that did not give her any advantage. (The faculty and student regents are elected by their constituencies.)

"I'm not compromising myself," he said.

Collins, who was governor until last year and has a bachelor's degree in home economics from the University of Kentucky, could not be reached for comment.

Bond, a finalist for the WKU presidency in 1985, said the university's technology program is "up and coming" and that he would like to

see the business program play a larger role in the area's economic development.

Bond has been president of Clark since 1980. The college has an enrollment of about 6,200, growing by about 2 percent in each of the past eight years, Bond said.

Meredith, a native of Owensboro, has a master's degree in education administration and supervision from WKU and has been at Ole Miss for five years. He said he is responsible for the day-to-day activities at the Oxford campus.

"Western is headed in a very positive direction now, and I would hope to continue that," he said yesterday. WKU has recently experienced growth in enrollment, and he said the campus "seems to be alive and moving."

Frederickson was president of Eastern Washington University, which has an enrollment of about

9,000, for 10 years before moving to the University of Kansas last year.

He left Washington, he said, after helping the university shift from being a teachers' college to a comprehensive regional institution. "A university needs new blood," he said.

He also noted WKU's growth, saying, "All of higher education in Kentucky has grown recently, and Western has grown a little bit more."

This week, regent Wendell Strode spoke with the candidates about salary and benefits in general terms. The salary offered will be about \$80,000, and benefits will include a home with a housekeeper, medical benefits and a special retirement fund, Strode said.

The regents have been looking for a new president since April, when President Kern Alexander said he was leaving to become a distinguished professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Daily News 7-29-88

Collins among finalists for Western presidency

By ED SEVERS

Daily News Staff Writer

Former Gov. Martha Layne Collins, 51, is among four finalists announced today in the search for a Western Kentucky University president.

Other candidates are Thomas Bond, 50, president of Clarion (Pa.) University; H. George Frederickson, 54, distinguished professor of public administration at the University of Kansas; and Thomas C. Meredith, 46, vice chancellor at the University of Mississippi.

Western Board of Regents Chairman Joe Iracane announced the finalists and said the board will announce its choice from among the four Aug. 5.

According to a schedule released by school officials, the finalists are to be on campus Wednesday and Thursday for additional interviews and meetings with teachers, students and others.

Most students and teachers will be gone from the campus at the time because Western will not be in session, but Iracane said faculty members he talked with did not object.

During a question-and-answer session with reporters after the announcement, Iracane declined to answer questions about Mrs. Collins' qualifications.

"We're going to balance the scale," he said. "Martha Layne brings certain things to the table that the other candidates do not ... and each candidate brings a special uniqueness to Western."

"Naturally, I would not want to discuss those particular uniquenesses, but each of them does have them, and that's what has brought the 102 down to the four. So it's a matter of matching our needs to our qualifications."

Iracane was also asked whether Mrs. Collins has an advantage because she appointed a majority of the members of WKU's board.

"I hope not," responded Iracane, who was one of her appointees. "I'm not compromising myself."

The final four were chosen from seven semifinalists who were interviewed by regents during the weekend.

Iracane announced after those meetings that he would not announce the names of the final four until each had

confirmed a willingness to accept the job if it were offered.

He said that if any dropped out, the candidate would be replaced by another of seven semifinalists.

Regent Wendell Strode said this morning each of the four candidates picked by the board has confirmed that he will take the job if offered.

Whoever is chosen will be offered a base salary and package of benefits similar to those being received by current President Kern Alexander, according to Strode.

Alexander's base salary is \$83,900 annually. In addition, he receives another \$17,000 that is paid into investment and retirement accounts; use of a house and full-time housekeeper; a car; and the health and life insurance benefits offered to other university employees.

Alexander is leaving Western to take a job at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va., but said he will stay at Western until a replacement is found.

Regents^{Lexington Herald- Leader 7-29-88} to announce 4 finalists for WKU job

By Todd Pack
Herald-Leader staff writer

The four finalists in the presidential search at Western Kentucky University will be announced this morning by the head of the school's board of regents.

Chairman Joseph Iracane declined to say yesterday whether former Gov. Martha Layne Collins would be among those named.

Collins, who left office last December, had been among the seven top candidates.

Although Iracane would not release the names of the finalists, he said the board was looking for someone who would work well with the legislature and "continue in the progressive and expansive mode."

The finalists will visit Western next week to meet with faculty members, students and staff, he said, and the successor to President Kern Alexander might be named by the end of next week.

Alexander has accepted a distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Earlier this week, Gov. Wallace Wilkinson discussed the presidential search in separate meetings with Collins and Iracane.

Wilkinson said he and Collins talked about the search "just in passing" during a meeting Wednesday morning.

That night's meeting between Wilkinson and Iracane "went very well," Iracane said.

They discussed a number of issues, he said, adding that he shared the names of the top four or five candidates with the governor.

"Basically, he asked some questions about the candidates," Iracane said, "and he asked if Kern Alexander had any input on any of them."

He said he told Wilkinson that he sought Alexander's advice earlier in the search on the professional credentials and experience of a much larger pool of candidates.

However, Iracane said, Alexander played no role in selecting the small number of candidates who were interviewed by regents last weekend in Nashville.

Among the candidates interviewed were:

- Stephen House, executive assistant to Alexander.

- Thomas Bond, president of the 6,200-student Clarion University of Pennsylvania and a finalist in Western's 1985 presidential search.

- H. George Frederickson, former president of Eastern Washington University, who is a distinguished professor at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

- Thomas Meredith, executive vice chancellor of the University of Mississippi.

Of the search for a new WKU president, Wilkinson said: "I am not involved in the presidential-selection process at Western."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Western ready to announce its finalists

From Daily News
and AP Reports

The names of the four finalists in the search for a president for Western Kentucky University are expected to be announced at 10 a.m. Friday.

A school spokesman said a news conference has been scheduled for that time in the board of regents meeting room and that an announcement of the finalists was the probable reason.

If so, the announcement will come two days after regents Chairman Joe Iracane visited with Gov. Wallace Wilkinson to inform the governor of probable finalists in WKU's search for a new president.

"As a courtesy to the governor, I elaborated on the seven people we interviewed in Nashville and discussed (who) we thought would probably be the top four or five ... left in the search," Iracane said.

"I just think it's good common sense — common courtesy — to do that kind of thing," he said.

Iracane said he and Wilkinson discussed other topics during a meeting that lasted for more than an hour, but the presidential search was the reason he asked for the meeting. Iracane would not discuss the other topics of discussion.

"It was a good opportunity to not only inform him of the search situation but also to bring him up to date on some other matters that are important to Western," he

said.

Iracane said Wilkinson has kept up with the search but has not been overly interested and has not tried to guide it or influence the board's decision.

"His (position) has been that he's going to stay a ... distance from the search ... but 'he is interested in the procedures and the criteria ... to be sure that we get somebody that is aggressive and will continue in the same mode (as President Kern Alexander),' Iracane said.

"His views on that and ... the board's are one and the same," Iracane said.

One of seven semifinalists in the presidential search is former Gov. Martha Layne Collins, who also met with Wilkinson on Wednesday.

Wilkinson, however, said the Western presidential search came up just in passing.

He said his discussion with Mrs. Collins concerned a planned campaign stop in Louisville on Saturday by Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis.

"She informed me that he was, she thought, coming into the state on Friday, and I hadn't heard about that," Wilkinson said.

Of the search for a new WKU president, Wilkinson said: "I am not involved in the presidential

Continued Back Page,
Column 5, This Section

selection process at Western. I was not involved in it last week. I am not involved in it this week, and I am not going to be involved in it next week."

If he had wanted to be involved, he said, "I would have done something with respect to the board."

The terms of four of the eight gubernatorially-appointed WKU regents have expired, but Wilkinson said he will not announce reappointments or replacements until a new Western president is named.

All eight regents were either appointed or reappointed by Mrs. Collins while she was governor from 1983-87.

The board also has one faculty regent and one student regent.

Mrs. Collins and the six other semifinalists were interviewed by regents in Nashville during the weekend.

Wilkinson was also in Nashville during the weekend, but apparently the timing of his visit was coincidental and he did not participate

in the interviews.

Mark Schaap, a Bowling Green businessman who ran Wilkinson's gubernatorial campaign in Warren County, said he and Wilkinson went to Nashville to discuss business.

Schaap said Wilkinson also took advantage of an opportunity to appear on stage at the Grand Ole Opry and speak.

Schaap said they arrived in Nashville about 6:30 p.m. Saturday and returned to Bowling Green about 1 p.m. Sunday.

Iracane said he plans to announce the names of four finalists Friday or Monday and that each will be brought to Bowling Green for tours and meetings.

He has predicted that the board of regents will make its choice by the second week of August.

Alexander is leaving WKU to take a \$120,000-a-year distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Courier-Journal
7-28-88

Wilkinson meets with Collins, WKU chair

By RICHARD WILSON
Staff Writer

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Former Gov. Martha Layne Collins and Gov. Wallace Wilkinson met yesterday, but Wilkinson said they discussed the Western Kentucky University presidential search "just in passing."

Collins, who left office last December, is one of the leading candidates for the WKU presidency. President Kern Alexander is leaving the Bowling Green university to take a \$120,000-a-year distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Collins could not be reached for comment after the morning meeting.

Wilkinson also met for more than an hour last night in his Capitol office with WKU Regents' Chairman Joe Iracane of Owensboro.

Afterward, Iracane said the meeting "went very well." He said they discussed a number of issues and that he shared the names of the top four or five candidates with the governor.

"Basically, he asked some questions about the candidates and he asked if Kern Alexander had any input on any of them," Iracane said.

He said he told Wilkinson that Alexander knew who the top seven candidates were, and that earlier in the search he had sought Alexander's advice on the professional credentials and experience of a much larger pool of candidates for the post.

Iracane said Alexander played no role in selecting the small number of candidates who were interviewed by regents.

He said Wilkinson reassured him that he would play no role in the selection of a new WKU president.

Before the meeting, Wilkinson said he did not know what it was to be about.

"The full extent of my knowledge about it is that Mr. Iracane has

See COLLINS
PAGE 3, col. 4, this section

Collins, WKU chairman meet with Wilkinson

Continued from Page B 1

called me and asked for a meeting," the governor said.

Iracane said he planned to discuss "several things" with Wilkinson, but he declined to give any specifics. "I just want to go over some things with him in general," Iracane said.

He said that he planned to announce the names of the four finalists for the presidency tomorrow, or no later than Monday. "I don't see why we need to delay it any longer than that," Iracane added.

Collins was one of seven candidates for the presidency interviewed by WKU's regents last week-end in Nashville, Tenn.

Iracane said last night that fewer than those seven have been visited

since then by some board members. The four finalists and their families, he added, will be brought to WKU's Bowling Green campus next week for meetings with faculty, students and staff members.

Iracane said he expects Alexander's successor to be named no later than mid-August.

Wilkinson said that his discussion with Collins dealt with a planned campaign stop in Louisville Saturday by Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis.

"She informed me that he was, she thought, coming into the state on Friday, and I hadn't heard about that," Wilkinson said.

He would not comment on who called the meeting.

But he reiterated that he was not

involved in the search for a new WKU president.

"I am not involved in the presidential-selection process at Western. I was not involved in it last week, I am not involved in it this week, and I am not going to be involved in it next week," Wilkinson said. He said that if he had wanted to be involved, "I would have done something with respect to the board."

The terms of four of the eight gubernatorially appointed WKU regents have expired. All eight were either appointed or reappointed by Collins while she was governor from 1983-87.

The board also has one faculty and one student regent.

Information for this story was also gathered by staff writer Tom Loftus.

List of candidates for WKU presidency cut to 4 by regents

Lexington
Herald-Leader
7-26-88

By Todd Pack
Herald-Leader staff writer

BOWLING GREEN — The number of candidates for the presidency of Western Kentucky University was cut to four yesterday, the head of the board of regents said.

But Chairman Joseph Iracane said he would not release the names until at least Friday because some finalists might drop out and be replaced by others.

He would not say whether former Gov. Martha Layne Collins still is in the running.

"We're not sure that the people we're dealing with will accept the financial package that we're willing to offer," Iracane said.

That package includes a salary of about \$79,000 and use of a university-leased house and car.

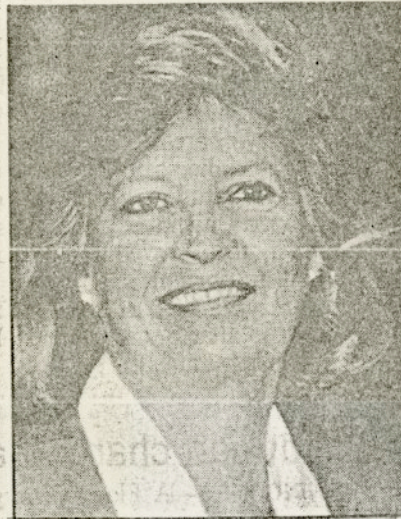
Western President Kern Alexander, who is stepping down, is paid about \$83,000.

Two of the candidates might drop out of the race because the offer is not high enough, he said.

If two applicants do withdraw, Iracane said, two other candidates would become finalists, so that the list would have four people.

The regents expect to hear within a few days if any finalist would turn down the offer, he said. The four finalists will then be announced and brought to campus Monday.

"Once we bring them to cam-



Board would not say whether Collins is one of the remaining candidates.

"pus," Iracane said, "we hope to have (the president) named within that week.

"We're comfortable with the quality of the people we're dealing

(Turn to REGENTS, B2)

Regents cut list of WKU presidency candidates

From Page B1

with ... and can live with any of them."

The board met with the top seven applicants over the weekend in Nashville, Tenn. Besides Collins, they included:

- Thomas Bond, president of Clarion (Pa.) State College;

- H. George Frederickson, who was president of Eastern Washington University in Cheney for 10 years and is now distinguished professor at the University of Kansas;

- Thomas Meredith, executive vice chancellor of the University of Mississippi;

- Stephen House, assistant to Western's president.

While in office, Collins appointed or reappointed eight of Western's 10 regents.

'There is lots of potential, and basically what they (WKU) need, in my opinion, is good administration, good management and seeking outside funds. You can have all the curriculum ... but if you don't have funds, you can't implement them.'

— Martha Layne Collins

Collins, whose term as governor ended in December, could not be reached yesterday for comment. She has said she is unsure whether she would accept the Western presidency if it is offered.

Iracane would not say whether the board is concerned about a federal grand jury investigation into Dr. Bill Collins' business dealings while his wife was governor.

Collins said after she was interviewed by the board Sunday that Western needs help with fund raising.

He was to leave Western by July 1 but agreed to stay until the search is completed.

"There is lots of potential, and basically what they need, in my opinion, is good administration, good management and seeking outside funds," she said. "You can have all the curriculum ... but if you don't have funds, you can't implement them."

The regents are searching for a replacement for Alexander, who announced April 11 that he was stepping down to accept a distinguished professorship at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

WKU to offer new president similar salary

By ED SEVERS
Daily News Staff Writer

Whoever is chosen as the eighth president of Western Kentucky University will receive a starting salary and benefits package similar to that received by outgoing President Kern Alexander — a package worth well over \$100,000 a year.

Western's Board of Regents has not set a specific range of salary and benefits to be offered, but has generally agreed that they will be comparable to those being received by Alexander, according to regent Wendell Strode.

Alexander's base salary is \$83,900 annually, according to Western Vice President for Business Affairs Harry Largen.

In addition, the school pays an amount equal to 10 percent (\$8,390) of his salary into an investment account of Alexander's choice and an amount equal to 10.95 percent (\$9,187) into a retirement fund.

Alexander also is provided a

house and full-time housekeeper, a car, and the same health and life insurance benefits offered other WKU employees.

The big question now in the search for a new president is whether that is enough to lure each of four finalists chosen by the board of regents away from his current job.

Strode is in the process of contacting the finalists to let each know he is a finalist and outline the salary and benefits to be offered.

Strode expects each of the finalists to say within the next few days whether he wishes to remain a candidate or be dropped from consideration.

Board Chairman Joe Iracane said Monday if any of the candidates drops out, he will be replaced by another of seven semifinalists picked by the board.

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Iracane said salary and benefits were discussed with those semifinalists during weekend interviews in Nashville.

Iracane said none of the candidates said yes or no to the proposed salary and benefits, but there was some doubt on his part over whether one or two would be willing to accept what the board would be willing to offer.

Strode said this morning that the issue of salary and benefits did not come up during the weekend interviews.

"Money was never mentioned ... as far as I remember," he said.

Strode also said none of the seven was asked to reveal his current

salary.

The seven semifinalists include former Gov. Martha Layne Collins, who was interviewed for about 90 minutes.

Others reportedly include Stephen House, executive assistant to Alexander; Thomas Bond, president of Clarion (Pa.) State College; H. George Fredrickson, a distinguished professor of public administration at University of Kansas; and Thomas Meredith, vice chancellor of University of Mississippi.

Iracane has declined to confirm the list.

Alexander has promised to stay at Western until a new president is chosen.

Western narrows search for new president to four



(Staff Photo by Kevin Eans)

JOE IRACANE, chairman of the Western Kentucky University Board of Regents, this morning announced the board has cut to four the number of candidates being considered for the presidency of Western.

By **ED SEVERS**
Daily News Staff Writer

The Western Kentucky University Board of Regents has narrowed its search for a president to four candidates, but board Chairman Joe Iracane says names of the finalists will not be released until at least later this week.

Iracane said this morning the board will not release names until it is certain each of four finalists would accept the job.

If any of the four decides within the next few days he would not accept the job, another semifinalist will be moved up to take the spot, Iracane said.

"We're not going to announce (names) until we have it down to a legitimate four that we can live with," he said.

Iracane said the uncertainty centers mainly around the salary and benefits the board will offer.

"We're not sure that the people that we're dealing with will accept the financial package that we're willing to offer," Iracane said. "... and we don't feel like it's in our

best interest to limit our number to four until we're sure that the one or two that we're looking at could and are willing to accept the position."

Iracane said one of seven semifinalists, who were interviewed this weekend in Nashville, may already be earning more than Western will offer.

He was asked this morning if salary and benefits were discussed during the Nashville interviews.

"Sure it was, but they didn't say yea or nay," Iracane responded, adding that he expects to hear an answer from the candidates within a few days.

The board will then announce its four finalists, he said, predicting that the announcement will be made no later than Aug. 1.

Iracane also predicted that the board will have chosen someone to replace outgoing Western President Kern Alexander no later than the second week of August.

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"There's no reason for us to delay at this point ... because we're comfortable with the quality of the people we're dealing with," he said. "All of them are excellent, and we can live with any of the four."

Iracane's comments followed a very brief assembly of the board, which adjourned a meeting that began Friday with a vote to go into closed session to interview the semifinalists.

That closed session lasted through the weekend.

The seven semifinalists from which the board is choosing reportedly include former Gov.

Martha Layne Collins; Stephen House, executive assistant to the president at Western; Thomas Bond, president of Clarion (Pa.) State College; H. George Fredrickson, a distinguished professor of public administration at University of Kansas; and Thomas Meredith, vice chancellor of University of Mississippi.

Iracane has declined to confirm the list.

Alexander has announced his resignation to take a job at another school but has promised to stay at Western until a new president is chosen.